

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (WOLFF, LESTER L.)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM CONGRESSMAN LESTER L.
WOLFF, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS
CONTROL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF STATEMENT MADE BY CONGRESSMAN
GILMAN AND MYSELF AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION AT PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE ENDING IN AN AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA OF
MEXICO TO SET UP A JOINT WORKING GROUP ON NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP A
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND YOURSELF AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE UPON OUR RETURN TO DISCUSS DETAILS FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED PROGRAM. WE WILL BE RETURNING
TO WASHINGTON ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18.

3. OUR PROMPT ATTENTION IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO RESPOND
TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE IN FORMULATING PRE-
LIMINARY GUIDELINES WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS. STATEMENT FOLLOWS:
(BEGIN STATEMENT)

JOINT STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN LESTER L. WOLFF AND CONGRESS
MAN BENJAMIN A. GILMAN AT A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT LUIS
ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO, JANUARY 10, 1976.

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THE SPIRALING INCIDENT OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE DEEP CONCERN OF PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AND THE U.S. CONGRESS IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM HAS PROMPTED OUR VISIT TO YOUR GREAT NATION.

PRESIDENT FORD, THREE WEEKS AGO, CALLED A MEETING OF A U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE TO PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE MEXICAN-UNITED STATES INTEREST IN ATTACKING THIS CANCER WHICH THREATENS THE HEALTH AND VITALITY OF THE YOUTH OF OUR NATIONS.

WE ATTACH GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO THE CREATIVE PROPOSAL BY PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA IN ESTABLISHING FOR THE FIRST TIME A FIRMAL ORGANIZATION THAT WILL COORDINATE THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF THE NARCOTIC REGULATORY, EDUCATIONAL, REHABILITATIVE AND INFORMATIONAL AGENCIES WHICH ARE REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT, ALONG WITH THEIR UNITED STATES COUNTERPARTS.

THE PROPOSAL INITIATED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, AND CONTRIBUTED TO BY UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR JOVA AND MEXICO'S ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA, WOULD ESTABLISH A PERMANENT COMMISSION TO BRING ABOUT EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF ALL DRUG ABUSE RELATED ACTIVITIES.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR JOINT ENDEAVORS WILL BE MEASURED IN RESULTS RATHER THAN RHETORIC, DERIVED ONLY FROM THE ELIMINATION OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS AND, ULTIMATELY, THE ERADICATION OF DRUG ABUSE BY OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

SEEKING TO OVERCOME THE MENACE OF NARCOTIC TRAFFIC THAT CONFRONTS OUR TWO NATIONS, MY COLLEAGUE, CONGRESSMAN GILMAN, A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AND I, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTIC CONTROL COMMITTEE, HAVE UNDERTAKEN THIS VITAL MISSION OF EXCHANGING IDEAS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

IN OUR MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HE HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVE SUPPORT AND CONCERN IN FINDING A PERMANENT SOLUTION TO THIS DREADFUL PROBLEM CONFRONTING BOTH OF OUR NATIONS.

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THIS MEETING THIS EVENING IS A CULMINATION OF A SERIES OF CONFERENCES WE HAVE ENGAGED IN AT ALL LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO, MANY OF WHICH ARE REPRESENTED IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT.

BECAUSE OF THE URGENCY OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, THE CREATION OF THIS JOINT COMMISSION MUST BE IMPLEMENTED WITH ALL POSSIBLE

SPEED. THIS IS A CRITICAL FACTOR IN THE SUCCESS OF THIS PLAN.

MY COLLEAGUE, MR. GILMAN, AND I WILL BE TAKING BACK A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO PRESIDENT FORD AND TO THE U.S. CONGRESS. THE PERSONAL COMMITMENT OF YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND ALL OF US HERE TONIGHT, THAT THIS PROPOSED JOINT COMMISSION BECOME A REALITY, WE CONSIDER A PRIME MISSION. MR. GILMAN AND I WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD UPON OUR RETURN TO HELP IMPLEMENT OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE THANK YOU FOR THE COOPERATION EXTENDED TO US BY YOUR OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES IN MAKING THIS A PRODUCTIVE, MOMENTOUS MISSION, WITH A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHOSE STAFFS HAVE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE.

MY FRIENDS - WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE - BECAUSE WITH OUT EFFORTS UNITED, WE CANNOT FAIL. (END STATEMENT).
TODMAN

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